Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /130 W

----- 047809

R 240531Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0635

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL KUWAIT 3532

FROM EMBASSY DOHA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, QA

SUBJ: RULER OF QATAR RETURNS FROM FOREIGN TRAVELS

- 1. SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, RULER OF QATAR, RETURNED TO DOHA AUG 16. HE WAS GREETED BY A LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC OFFICIAL AND POPULAR RECEPTION.
- 2. SHAYKH KHALIFA DEPARTED DOHA ON JULY 6 AND PAID STATE VISITS TO SYRIA, JORDAN AND EGYPT, IN THAT ORDER. FOLLOWING THESE, THE AMIR PROCEEDED TO PARIS AND LONDON FOR "PRIVATE VISITS" ALTHOUGH HE WAS RECEIVED IN PARIS BY PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND IN LONDON BY PRIME MINISTER WILSON.
- 3. ALTHOUGH THE AMIR HAS TRAVELED IN THE IMMEDIATE REGION, THIS WAS HIS MOST EXTENSIVE FOREIGN TRAVEL SINCE HE ASSUMED POWER IN FEBRUARY 1972. ON THE EVENING OF HIS RETURN, QATAR TV DEVOTED TWO HOURS TO A FILMED PRESENTATION OF THE AMIR'S TOUR. HIGHLIGHTED WERE HIS VISITS TO DAMASCUS, AMMAN AND CONFIDENTIAL

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EGYPT WHERE HE WAS ACCORDED FULL RED CARPET TREATMENT.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE AMIR IS GENERALLY RESPECTED FOR HIS INTELLIGENCE AND CONSCIENTIOUSNESS, ALL HIS HOSTS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN HIS PURSE. WE HAVE HEARD THE USUAL RUMORS ABOUT GIFTS, LOANS AND BIG BUSINESS DEALS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE ARMS PURCHASES IN FRANCE, AND WILL TRY TO SEPARATE FACT FROM FICTION OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. IN THE MEANTIME WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION THAT ADDRESSEE POSTS HAVE ON THE AMIR'S VISITS.

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